

PUBLIC QUESTIONS COUNCIL 14 MAY 2026

Question from Graham Betts

Referring to the answer to my Cabinet question (12.02.25) Council failed to complete highway marking and signage for public safety on Darwin's Walk, and failed to adopt Bowbrook Meadows, Shrewsbury. This is despite residents paying an average £6621 for CIL etc, totalling £3.59M.

Anti-social, dangerous and obstructive car parking is worse than ever due to absence of control. Council website states "Vehicles parked on pavements – this is a police matter: please report the matter to the police" and also by Council Officers. Council Guidance Note 4 states "It is a criminal offence to obstruct a public right of way", referring to s.137 of 1980 Highways Act. S.137 states obstruction of the highway "in any way", which includes parking on pavements and cycle paths, is an offence, quoting a fine, prison sentence, or both.

When reported to West Mercia Police (WMP) they refused to deal with the problem and state "Police have no powers and no responsibility when it comes to parking in Shropshire, and we have not since 2004. Below is a quote from the Shropshire Council website. Shropshire Council is the sole agency which enforces parking matters in Shropshire". The quotation followed.

Can Council please explain its apparently dysfunctional relationship with WMP regarding controlling these offences and advise how members of the public affected by anti-social pavement parking and dangers are meant to understand this nonsense? Additionally, on what date will Council apply powers to control pavement parking under the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act?

Question from Geoff Lowe

I am writing as a long-term resident of Market Drayton, having lived here for nearly 60 years, to express serious concerns regarding the noticeable decline in essential council services across the town.

Numerous road gullies are heavily silted and appear not to have been cleared for a considerable time, contributing to drainage problems and accelerating road surface deterioration. Could you confirm whether a regular inspection and maintenance programme exists, and when these drains were last serviced?

The condition of public spaces is also becoming unacceptable. Roads and pavements are visibly littered, and some litter and dog waste bins reportedly remain unemptied for extended periods. While local volunteers and businesses are commendably stepping into help, community efforts should not be relied upon to replace core council responsibilities. The recent large-scale litter pick ahead of the town 10k event reflects the extent of the issue.

There is also very little transparency regarding when these services are scheduled or carried out. I would urge the council to publish accessible schedules for drain maintenance, street sweeping, and bin emptying to help restore public confidence.

I would appreciate a response outlining:

1. Current service schedules;
2. Any known service disruptions affecting Market Drayton;
3. Actions being taken to restore acceptable standards; and
4. Plans to improve communication with residents.

If helpful, I would also be willing to walk around Market Drayton with a councillor or officer to discuss the issues directly?

Question from Peter Gilbert

Shropshire Council declared a Climate Emergency in May 2019 and agreed a Climate Emergency Strategy with the following key objective: “Reduce Shropshire Council’s greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to net carbon zero by 2030 (GHG Scope 1, 2 & 3)” [[Shropshire Council: Towards Net-Zero Carbon – Corporate Climate Strategy Nov 2020](#)].

Since the Council’s emergency declaration, the climate crisis has accelerated – the [1.5C threshold](#) has been exceeded for an entire year and we are much closer to several extremely dangerous tipping points, including the [collapse of the critical Atlantic current system](#), which would plunge the UK into Arctic winters and make it impossible to grow crops here.

The Council’s recent [Carbon Monitoring Report FY2025](#) shows that because of initial slow progress in reducing emissions, the Council now needs to take a rapid descent pathway (-16% emissions per year) to achieve net-zero by 2030.

Is the Council still committed to its original Climate Emergency Declaration and therefore to this rapid descent pathway to achieve net-zero by 2030? And if so, how will it achieve this accelerated reduction of carbon emissions?

Question from Paul Williamson (Shifnal Town Council)

Is the issue of the Halesfield Recycling Site not being available to Shropshire Residents being reviewed with discussions between Telford and Wrekin and Shropshire Council. This is a ludicrous situation with Shifnal Residents being expected to drive to either Bridgnorth or Shrewsbury to dispose of household waste. This is going to contribute to further instances of fly tipping and hopefully common sense will apply